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Photo by Catherine Quinn

Editorial

Intolerance

by Will Nicholls

It isn't unusual for me to write about intolerance but it is normally about mainstream people and their issues with Canada's First Nations. Every now and then I get reminded that it isn't a one-way street. In this cases it was a solid hit below the belt.

In a July 27 Facebook post, the current president of the Canadian Aboriginal Veterans and Serving Members Association, Richard Blackwolf, said we are all too sensitive.

Blackwolf, in his mid-70s, commented on uniformed police officers attending LGBT Pride parades. "A parade of mutations and deviations, there should be no military or law enforcement officers taking part," he wrote.

It wasn't the first time he has publicly expressed questionable opinions. On July 9, Blackwolf posted a graphic titled, "Let's discuss what Islam offers." Labels under black stick figures in the graphic included pedophilia, rape, slavery, hostage-taking and burning people alive. "Where to start? OK Clockwise… Beheading," Blackwolf wrote beneath the graphic.

This military veteran then distinguished himself by agreeing with another post that contended that right-wing women are better looking. "The further left you go, the ugly index increases exponentially," Blackwolf observed, pointing to US President Donald Trump's wife and daughter as examples of "well-maintained" right-wing women.

Ask to comment by the CBC, Blackwolf responded that, "We appear to be under attack from a hate group – a liberal hate group. I guess there's got to be a first time for everything...They call it snowflakes. I don't know. I don't get involved in politics."

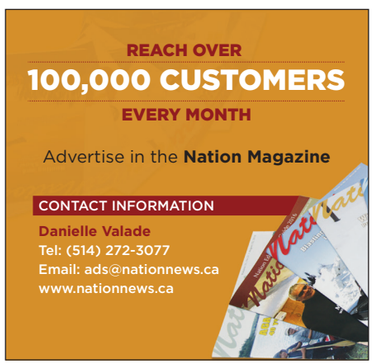
Many Indigenous veterans are outraged by his statements and others have demanded his resignation. He should resign. Intolerance of this kind should not be expressed by a representative of Canada's Indigenous peoples.

Such voices are a bane of any race, religion or culture. They are given more prominence than they deserve while voices of tolerance are few and far between in what we see and hear.

Blackwolf deserves to be taken to task and held accountable for his words and the same with all those who are of his type. I would wish those who have such closed minds and attitudes could go someplace else and fight it out among themselves. But they are not likely to go away.

Should we just tolerate them without recourse? No. One simple solution would be to ensure that our educational systems do a better job of explaining our differences.

Fear of the stranger is still something we teach to our children. Stranger-danger. There is no danger in learning of other races, peoples, lifestyle choices, cultures, religions and beliefs that are all around us. We should not be wary of those who are different but rather those who do not respect civilization. Those who think their way is the only way and do not think we have a right to our own opinions and way of life. It does not matter who or what you are as long as you are willing to extend the same right to others in life's journey. It has to start in the classroom if some parents cannot overcome their own prejudices.



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News

Where the eagles fly

This year's Mattagami powwow **honours the Elders**

Photo and story by Xavier Kataquapit

A trio of eagles in flight greeted the seventh annual Mattagami First Nation Powwow August 19-20. Elder Mike Naveau pointed out that the three eagles had been over the community leading up to the gathering. Local members took it as a sign of good fortune as the eagle symbolizes strength and vision.

This year's powwow was titled "Honouring Our Elders" and led by host drum Eagle River Singers of Barriere Lake First Nation; co-host drum Shining Water Singers of Georgina Island First Nation; and invited drum Thunder Creek of Timmins.

male dancer for the event. He was joined by his wife Angela Trudeau as the head female dancer. They are both of Serpent River FN and they attended the event with their children who also danced. Powwow Elders were Alex Jacobs and Agnes Naveau of Mattagami.

"It is a special honour for me and my family to be invited here to dance at this powwow. As Regional Chief of Ontario and as a former Chief of my community, I understand the importance of remembering and honouring our Elders as they hold the knowledge and wisdom of our people. Our annual powwows are also an important part of

It is important for us to acknowledge and recognize our past and to honour our Elders, who are our ***traditional knowledge keepers***

- Mattagami Chief Chad Boissoneau

"Our annual powwow is an important way for us to connect our youth and our Elders and remind all of us of our cultural past. I really enjoy our annual gathering and seeing my grandchildren and other youth dancing. It is important for us to acknowledge and recognize our past and to honour our Elders, who are our traditional knowledge keepers," explained Mattagami Chief Chad Boissoneau.

Regional Ontario Chief Isadore Day appeared in full regalia as the head

our communities as they bring together the ideas of culture, language, family and unity. It is a way for us to remember our heritage, honour our past and to celebrate who we are as a people," said Day.

The event was coordinated by Dana McKenzie of Mattagami along with assistants Kiara Constant, Emily Ludebeck, Jason Therriault and Nolan Naveau. Councillor Jennifer Constant and Executive Director Juanita Luke also spearheaded support for the event.

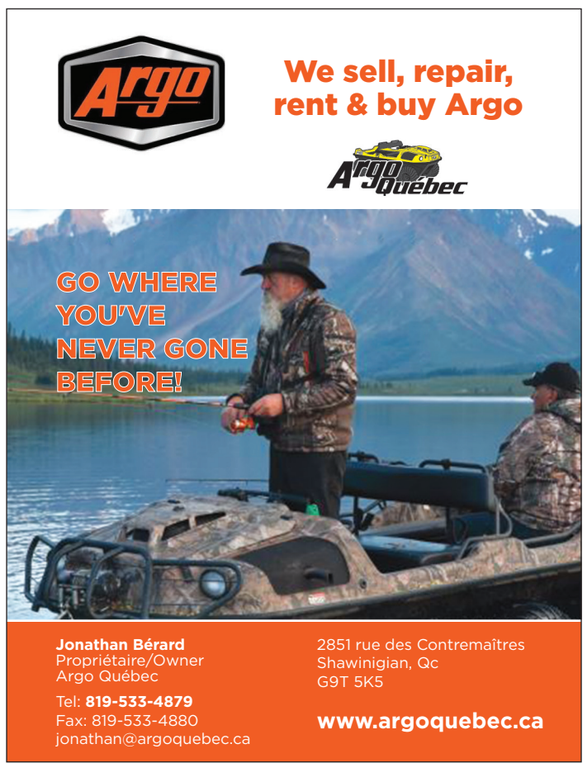
"This year's powwow was a great success as it brought together our community for a fun event to honour our Elders. They are the ones who kept our culture alive and it was their guidance and their life long sacrifices that allowed us to be who we are today," said McKenzie.

Lead youth dancers were local community members Max Worme and Janelle Golinowski. Worme was honoured with a surprise gift of male dancer's regalia presented to him by Chief Day during the event.

"I was surprised and honoured with this gift. My family and I are very grateful to Chief Day for providing me with such amazing regalia. It will definitely keep me dancing and hopefully encourage other young people to do the same," commented Worme.

The two-day event was guided by MC Greg "Mista Wasis" Dreaver from Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatchewan and Arena Director Shady Hafez from Kitigan Zibi.

The event started with a teepee raising and teaching event on the powwow grounds hosted by Misiway Community Health Centre and led by Misiway staff Gary Martin, Kristin Murray and Zack Farrell. The teepee was then used to house the powwow fire, which was watched over by powwow Fire Keeper Morrison Solomon, of Neyaashiinigmiing (Chippewas of Nawash) First Nation.



Opening of **QMJHL camps** signal opportunities for young Cree players

The off-season was short-lived for hockey players seeking a coveted spot on a Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team, including a trio of young Cree players who are once again on the Val-d'Or Foreurs training camp roster.

Mistissini's Adam Cheezo did not see any action in the Foreurs' first four pre-season contests at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, but is expected to have a growing role in Val-d'Or's offensive plans after enjoying a breakthrough campaign last season. Cheezo potted 10 goals and 25 assists in 66 appearances with the Foreurs last season.

The 18-year-old caught the eyes of professional scouts with last year's performance, but will have to wait until next year to continue pursuit of his pro hockey dream after being passed over at the 2017 NHL Draft.

Cheezo is joined at the Foreurs camp by Waswanipi's Silas Mattawashish, who returns for a third straight year, and Chisasibi's Linden Namagoose, who is applying for a full-time job with the Foreurs for the second time.

Mattawashish played 33 contests with the Foreurs last season, recording one assist, before closing out the schedule with the Valleyfield Braves of the QJAAAHL, where he notched five goals and eight assists in 17 games.

Namagoose has seen plenty of action in the early going of the Foreurs' August schedule, going pointless in three games patrolling the Val-d'Or blue line, while going +1 on the plus/minus.

Hockey **Fever**

by Dan Coyle
Photo by Jonathan Levert of Image Nomade Productions

In the college hockey ranks, Waswanipi's Deverick Ottereyes will return to the Nipissing University Lakers this fall for his sophomore season. Ottereyes spent three seasons in the QMJHL with the Prince Edward Island Rocket, later renamed the Charlottetown Islanders, before ending his junior hockey career with the Gatineau Olympiques.

The 22-year-old scored an impressive 74 points in 41 games with the Kahnawake Condors of the QJAAAHL before enrolling at Nipissing University last year, appearing in 19 games while completing the first year of a Commerce program he plans to continue this fall.

Moose Factory's Jonathan Cheechoo called it a career last spring following a solid 40-point year with Slovan Bratislava of the KHL. It remains to be seen if the first Cree player to score 50 goals in the NHL is done with the game, as rumours persist that Cheechoo might represent Team Canada at the 2018 Winter Olympics in February.

Out in Western Canada, Ethan Bear of Ochapowce First Nation is set to be the next Native sensation to hit the NHL when he reports to the Edmonton Oilers' training camp next month. The 20-year-old has emerged as a pleasant surprise for the Oilers, who selected him 124th overall in the 2015 NHL Draft. Bear has since exceeded expectations, particularly last season, when he racked up 70 points for Seattle of the WHL, and led the Thunderbirds to a berth in the Memorial Cup while taking home honours as the top defenceman in the WHL's Western Conference.

A number of Native hockey veterans are expected to play key roles with their NHL clubs this season, with none facing higher expectations than Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price. A member of British Columbia's Ulkatcho First Nation, Price made headlines this summer by inking an eight-year contract extension that will pay him an average of $10.5 million per season.

Micheal Ferland, a 25-year-old Cree from Swan River, Manitoba, is expected to return to the Calgary Flames line-up for his third full season this fall. Ferland has enjoyed unexpected success with the Flames after overcoming a personal battle with substance abuse. The on-ice agitator appeared in 76 games with Calgary last season, and set a career high with 25 points, potting 15 goals and adding 10 assists.

Two-time Stanley Cup winner Jordan Nolan, an Ojibway from Garden River, Ontario, remains under contract with Los Angeles, but will face an uphill battle to maintain a job with a Kings squad facing an imminent rebuild after missing the NHL playoffs this spring for the second time in three years.

Nolan's former teammate Dwight King of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, closed out last season with the Montreal Canadiens, but the two-time Cup winner will not return to the NHL this season after inking a deal this summer with Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg of the KHL.

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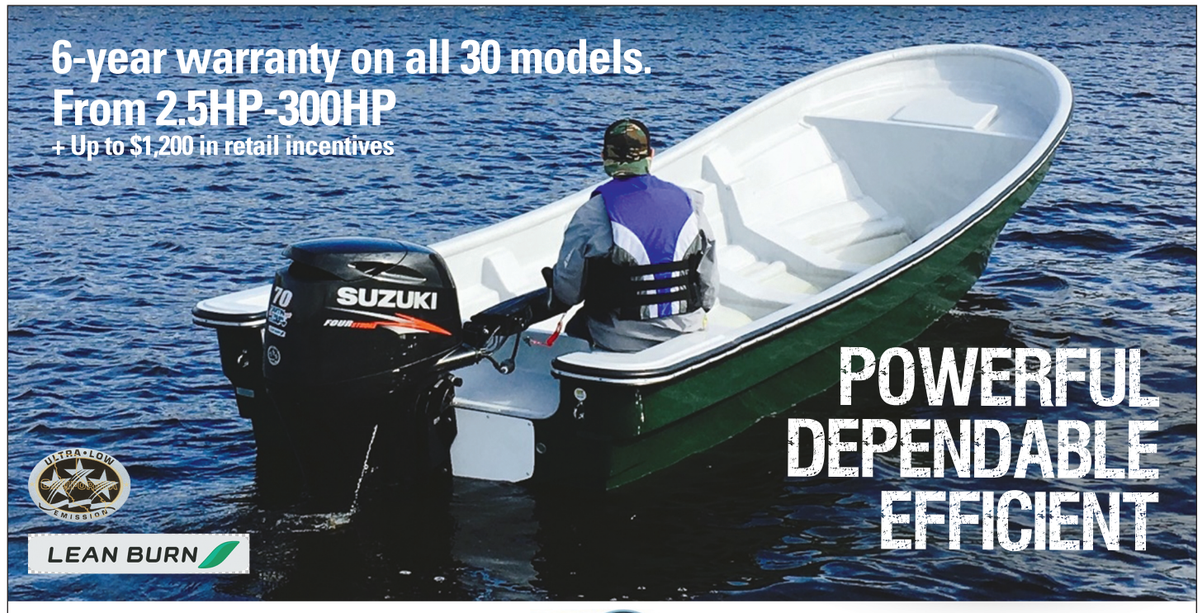

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Totem destroyed by Montreal employee

A totem carved by Atikamekw artist Jacques Newashish was destroyed by a City of Montreal employee in early August in what officials are calling a "mistake". The wooden carving called "La femme de la nuit hibou" (The Woman of the Night of the Owl) was a statue dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous women that was to be burned symbolically in a ceremony August 9 at the Montreal First Peoples' Festival.

Arriving at the festival site in Montreal's Place des Arts the day before the ceremony was scheduled to take place, organizers found that the artwork had disappeared.

City spokesperson Anik de Repentigny said that as city workers were cleaning up wood chips surrounding the totem an organizer asked them to remove the artwork as well. She said that the city employee "…acted in good faith and according to the information that was given to him at that moment."

Newashish's partner Clode Jalette didn't mince words when posting on Facebook.

"The fate of this artwork is ironic given the message that the artist wanted to send, emphasizing the injustice experienced by missing Indigenous women and affected families," she wrote. "How could they so easily tear up and destroy what was clearly a work of art that was practically finished?"

Road to the Ring of Fire

In Brief

The Ring of Fire region in northern Ontario will soon be accessible by road, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne announced in Thunder Bay August 21. The road construction is the first step toward expediting mineral development in the heavily prospected area 500 km north of Thunder Bay.

Home to one of the world's richest chromite deposits, a mineral used to manufacture stainless steel, and also rich in nickel, copper and platinum, the new roads will provide year-round access to communities in the area and the Ring of Fire, specifically to a proposed mining development site managed by Noront Resources Ltd.

Three of the nine First Nations communities in the area – Webequie, Marten Falls and Nibinamik – have agreed to work with the Ontario government to facilitate the region's development. The project will begin with an east-west road to connect Webequie and Nibinamik to the provincial highway network, followed by another highway link to Marten Falls.

Mistissini elects new school commissioner

Errol Mianscum is the new school commissioner of Mistissini after narrowly defeating his opponent John S. Matoush. In total, 101 votes were cast with Mianscum receiving 52 to Matoush's 49.

"It feels great to have the opportunity to make the changes I would like to see," Mianscum told *the Nation*. "I'll be an ear and voice for our community's concerns. Plus, I'd like to thank all those who encouraged me to run. I hope I make you all proud."

CTA election results

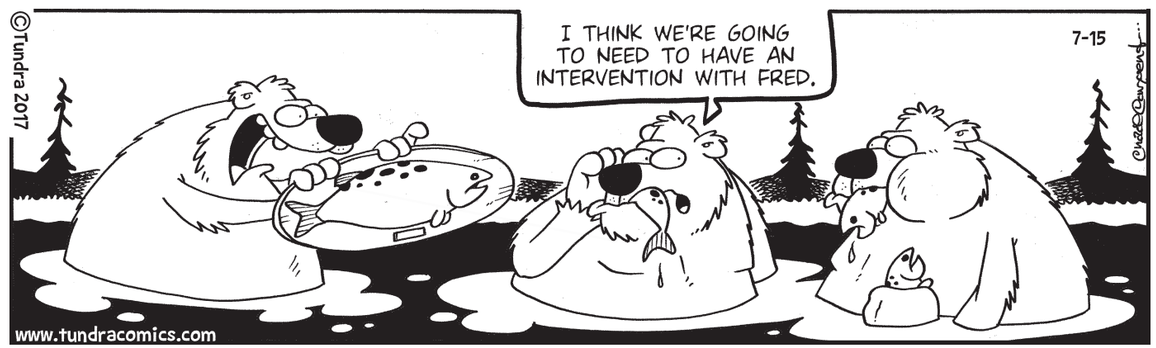
Here are the results of the election for the leadership of the Cree Trappers Association that was held on August 17.

- New President (4-year term): Fred Tomatuk from Eastmain.

Number of votes: 45 (5 voting delegates from each of the 9 communities)

- Fred Tomatuk: 23 votes (51.11%)
- Edward Gilpin: 15 votes (33.33%)
- Isaac Masty: 7 votes (15.56%)

Appointed by the CTA's Board of Directors: new Vice-President Joshua Iserhoff (Director of Nemaska) and new executive committee member Anna Bosum (Director of Oujé-Bougoumou).



UNDER THE BIG TENT

by Joshua Grant

Photos by Catherine Orr & Richard Angeloro

Niimuuhiikan celebrates Cree culture **with a more personal powwow**

August 19 and 20 marked a weekend of celebration in Mistissini, with the 2017 version of the Niimuuhiikan powwow rolling smoothly and taking place outside on the land despite some inclement weather.

JBCCS Executive Director Luke MacLeod said that the committee was well prepared for rain this year, setting up a large tent on the powwow site that kept dancers, vendors and spectators dry on Saturday but also allowed for everyone to spread out on the powwow grounds once conditions improved the following day.

"Actually it went really well," MacLeod told *the Nation*. "It's one of those things you spend a lot of time preparing for but you never really know what's going to happen. Immediately we found there was a problem with the weather, so we rented a large circus tent – we absolutely wanted to have [the powwow] outside."

MacLeod said that an open-air event provides a better experience for everyone involved.

"The people who participate enjoy it much more outside on the land, even the vendors," he explained. "Saturday we had rain but Sunday was a really great day, the weather really turned in our favour."

For MacLeod and other Niimuuhiikan organizers, the Mistissini powwow is about celebrating culture and sharing traditions with the younger generation. Niimuuhiikan places more emphasis on sharing than it does on competition.

> *The main thing is to show our youth and our people that there are other paths that they can go on to* ***keep away from things that might be harmful to them***
>
> *- JBCCS Executive Director Luke MacLeod*

personal. We don't do a lot of competitions; the main thing is to show our youth and our people that there are other paths that they can go on to keep away from things that might be harmful to them."

MacLeod believes that the powwow strengthens their identity as Indigenous youth while helping them steer clear of the pitfalls of alcohol and drugs.

"People in our community who have started drumming and dancing have been able to stay away from things like drugs and alcohol," he continued. "People who have gone down that path before are able to share their experiences and how they were able to get away from that [negative lifestyle]."

Featured at this year's Mistissini celebration were the Bear Creek drum group – Ojibwe drummers who came all the way from Sault Ste. Marie, the Eastern Sound Singers from Mashteuiatsh near Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Northern Voice from Wemotaci.

Jerry Hunter from Lac-Simon was the powwow's head dancer, one of many Algonquins who made the trip for Niimuuhiikan, while Paula Menarick

"People in our community who have started drumming and dancing have been able to ***stay away from things like drugs and alcohol"***

- JBCCS Executive Director Luke MacLeod

was the lead dancer for women. According to MacLeod, Menarick's fancy shawl dancing and kind spirit had a lot of influence on the young people in attendance, especially young women, and he also mentioned a few Mistissini powwow regulars like Mary Coon and Doris Bosum who danced as well.

Rounding out the powwow team was emcee Gabriel Herodier from Chisasibi, who MacLeod hopes will be back again next year, as well as committee members Alice MacLeod, Pam MacLeod, Darling Wapachee and Justice Debassige, among others.

MacLeod estimated that there were around 70 dancers each day, over half of them comprised of youth from the host community. He also noted that the powwow welcomed 10-12 vendors on each of the two days, who enjoyed the fact that this year's event took place outdoors.

"This year we didn't have as many adults because there were other powwows scheduled at the same time that deflected some of our participants," he noted.

Two other crucial elements of the Mistissini celebration were cultural exchange and arguably the best part of any Cree event: the community feast. Cree traditions were practiced and shared with other communities and First Nations individuals in attendance, while Alice MacLeod and her team prepared a large spread of traditional food.

"We did a walking-out ceremony once again and we had Jason Coonishish doing our hunters drum," MacLeod said. "This community drum was used before hunting, after hunting, after a feast, as a celebration and for giving thanks. The vendors and the participants like that we include our traditions and share our own culture here in Mistissini every year."

Finally, MacLeod thanked the organizations and sponsors that make Niimuuhiikan possible: the Cree Nation of Mistissini, CreeCo, Cree Outfitting Tourism Association, JBCCS, Meechum Store, Ace Hardware and many local individuals who organized bake sales and other fundraisers to make the Mistissini powwow a reality.

by Trey Turner

The **return to school** isn't as stressful as it used to be

Growing up, I have always thought about useful inventions that could change the world. One invention I recall was a machine that would transfer years of schooling into a person's brain within seconds thus eliminating the need to attend an educational institution… I guess you could say I was less than excited about returning to school.

As the days of summer start to fade, the return of school looms on the horizon for many, but for some it's already a reality. My Secondary 5 year started on August 17. However, I didn't attend the first two-and-half days because of traveling issues – and laziness.

For the summer, my father and I had planned that my sister and I visit him, my grandfather and siblings in Moose Factory and attend a cultural event called the Gathering of Our People (GOOP). I wanted to go right after the MikwChiyam Art Festival on June 26, but due to traveling issues and my sister's desire to stay in Mistissini to spend time with friends we only left on July 21.

My dad got a friend in Mistissini to pick us up at 7 am (preposterous, I know!) and drive us to Chibougamau, where my sister and I were to catch a bus to Val-d'Or to meet our father who was waiting to drive us to Timmins, Ontario.

I wanted to say goodbye to my computer the night before leaving for the remainder of the summer so I played video games all night. And before you say anything, there was no way in hell I was going to wake up at 7 am and be mentally able to not press snooze. I wasn't even packed! So, in retrospect, staying up all night playing video games before leaving for Mistissini was actually an intelligent decision.

On the drive to Chibougamau, I was dead tired. Had you thrown a ball at me it would have hit my face. When we arrived at the "bus station" (a.k.a. the Sonic gas station), my Dad's buddy bought our tickets and sent us on our way.

After eating a McDonald's breakfast and putting my suitcase into the overhead storage compartment of the bus, I waddled over to my desired seat with my sister. I got out my bus ticket and waited for the bus driver to come over and scan it. I had a student ticket, which I figured wouldn't be an issue. I mean I'm 15. It's the law, isn't it?

When the bus driver grabbed my ticket, he said something but I didn't understand due to his accent. I asked, "Come again?" But once I did, panic set in as I realized he was saying "Student ID!" I didn't know what a student ID was, let alone have one. So I'm sitting there thinking I'm gonna get kicked off and my sister is too because I'm supposed to be the one looking out for her and I am mentally screaming.

*"So, in retrospect, staying up all night playing video games before leaving for Mistissini was actually an **intelligent decision**."*

As I fumbled around to find some form of ID that states I'm a student, I see a look of sympathy on the bus driver who is patiently waiting. Finally, he said, "Just have your student ID ready next time." And he walked back to the driver seat. It took me a second to process what he just said and then I instantly fell back into my seat with relief. I was absolutely convinced that we were not going to Val-d'Or to meet our dad and, as a result, not going to Moose Factory.

So I'd like to give a shout-out to that driver. Without him and his leniency, I would have never made it to Val-d'Or and traveled to Timmins and Moose Factory with my father. So thanks Monsieur Conducteur for single-handedly saving my summer!

After sleeping the entire six-hour bus ride (I even slept through lunch), we arrived in Val-d'Or and met with our father, who took us to Timmins. Most of our time there was spent ordering food from fast-food restaurants (KFC deliv-ers, who would've guessed?), watching summer blockbusters at the local theatre and spending time with our dad. We also stayed with our granny in Cochrane for a couple of days.

The GOOP inched closer and so did the travel date for our train to Moose Factory. We eventually all traveled to

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The Graduates

by Dan Isaac

Photo by Catherine Quinn

Congratulations to the 2016-17 Cree School Board Grads

Another school year has come and gone and along the way friends were made, and interesting times were had – some better than others. But there were also accomplishments and as this school year drifts into another recognition is due to those who were successful despite the struggles.

It's time again to honour our future leaders and those who will form the foundations of our society.

As Phillip Awashish said during his speech to the Assembly of First Nations this last summer, "I am sometimes asked, 'Where are the youth in your story?' I answer, 'We were the youth!'"

So as graduates enter the next phase of their lives, it is with heartfelt gratitude and admiration that we here at *the Nation* say congratulations! And more importantly, we look forward to seeing your future accomplishments.

Waskaganish: Selena Blackned, Wilyssa Blackned-Moses, Marcus Blueboy-Weistche, Carlyn Diamond, Kirsten McLeod, Mark Moar-Mapachee, Kevin Moses, Jovani Stephen-Moses, Silas Trapper-Diamond and Waaseskun Trapper

Oujé-Bougoumou: Xandra Bosum, Cole Brazeau, Tyler Bush, Solomon Mianscum and Miguel Shecapio-Blacksmith

Waswanipi: Daagoden Blacksmith, Felicity Blacksmith, Jenna Blueboy, Angela Diamond, Selena Gull, Shaquille Gull, Cherish Gull-Cooper, Léa-Sigoon Nayassit, Terianne Otter, Brianna Ottereyes-Tanoush and Joel Ratte

Mistissini: Angel Baribeau, Yoshtin Diamond-Coonishish, Nicklas Gunner, Julie-Ann Joly, Marcus Lameboy, Myles Mainscum, Amanda Neeposh, Judith Neeposh, Michael Petawabano, Julianna Shecapio and Eliana Voyageur

Eastmain: Chaz Gilpin, Keesha Gilpin, Linsey Gilpin-Spencer, Nikita Mayappo and Brooklyn Moses

Wemindji: Yana Atsynia, Alyssa Georgekish, Emilia Gilpin,Tanner Gilpin, Wanda Miniquaken, Cherish Mistacheesick, Tommy-Lee Ottereyes, Amy Stewart and Bertha Visitor

Whapmagoostui: Bryan Atchynia, Wasashkun Atchynia, Jasmine Louttit, Jessie Masty, Trinity Napash-Mukash, Nicholas Petagumskum, Davina Rupert and Makayla Rupert-Sheshamush

Chisasibi: Kane Bearskin (History Exemption), Paule Bearskin, Roberta Bearskin, Johnny Cookish, Tristan Dixon, Carolyn Duff, Ashley Fireman, Mayson Kitty, Yasmine Lafond, Joey Mark-Stewart, Tara-Lee Martinhunter-Hester, Ryan Meilleur, Leila Moar, Paulette Napash, Mark Neacappo, Kayla Pepabano, Camille Roy, Marcus Rupert, Casey Shem, Savannah Shem, Tyson Spencer, Angel Tapiatic and Marlana Trapper

Nemaska: Rosalina Jolly and Lyle Kitchen

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NISKAMOON CORPORATION

la Convention de la Baie James et du Nord québécois

Comité d'examen des répercussions sur l'environnement et le milieu social

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COMEX is the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, established by chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec agreement.

It's mission is to review the environmental and social impacts of proposed development projects and make recommendations to the provincial and regional administrator of the Convention.

- Learn about it's procedures and composition
- Get information on projects under review
- Participate by expressing your views and opinions

Some projects currently under review that may interest you :

- Construction of forest roads by Barette-Chapais ltée.: E West and extention of L209 North.
- Construction of new solid waste disposal facility in Waswanipi.
- Construction of wood pellet facility in Chapais by Rentech.

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In the reduced-flow stretches of the Rupert River, a team conducts ground surveys and helicopter flyovers to assess the appearance of the banks and monitor changes. The data collected is used to complete the follow-up of riverbank dynamics and to update riverbank maps.

Jacob Weistche
Field worker, Nemaska

Rupert River

Each month, a new video will be added to hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, September 13,
at 8:00 a.m.

Participation in North American Indigenous Games is a lifesaver for **young Waswanipi athlete**

by Dan Coyle

Beyond the win

"Playing basketball has been important to my ongoing recovery. *It helps to get things out of my mind, relieve stress, and improve my mood"*

- Montana Kitchen

One young Cree athlete's participation at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) last July represented a milestone that she never expected to see.

Photo provided by NAIG

An avid basketball player since the age of 12, Montana Kitchen fell in love with the game while attending private school, and participated in numerous tournaments across the Cree Nation and other Canadian cities. The 18-year-old and her sister India Kitchen also enjoyed the luxury of having an in-house coach, with their father John having served as a bench boss with the Waswanipi Wildfires.

However, like so many young people from First Nations communities, Montana has endured an ongoing struggle with depression, and was hospitalized during last year's Eastern Door and North NAIG tryouts following her third attempt at suicide.

High rates of suicide among Canada's First Nations youth have reached alarming levels – a trend that reached an epidemic last year in the troubled community of Attawapiskat, where a suspected 11 suicide attempts were made within one 24-hour period, leading the band council to declare a state of emergency.

The communities of Eeyou Istchee represent a model of stability in comparison to Attawapiskat. But suicide remains a concern among the James Bay Cree, with the rates of hospitalization for suicide attempts more than double the provincial average in Quebec, according to a study by the Cree Health Board.

Already saddled with doubt as to her ability to qualify for the ED&N squad, Montana held out little hope of making the team and participating in her first international event.

"At first, I wasn't into trying out for a team because I thought I would get cut," said Montana in a conversation with *the Nation*.

After being scouted during a game at an Eeyou Istchee community tournament, Montana, along with sister India, Jenna Ottereyes and Gisele Visitor, attended an ED&N camp in Wendake, where they impressed enough to advance to the second round of tryouts. But hopes of continuing through the selection camps were put on hold when Montana was admitted to a Montreal-area hospital for a week-long stay to receive treatment for her life-threatening depression.

"I was sure I wouldn't make the second round," explained Montana, who was eager to discuss her battle with depression. Montana also makes no bones about how important participation in organized sports has been for her recovery. "As I was recovering, I still continued to train when I got home. Finally, in early September, my sister and I made the team. I was so happy. I didn't think I had it in me."

With a position on the ED&N 19U female squad locked up, Montana and India kicked their training into high gear this past February, participating in regular practices with the squad, and hitting the court in five prep tournaments prior to competing in Toronto.

Finally, the two sisters from Waswanipi joined Ottereyes and Visitor as part of the Cree con-

"Finally, in early September, my sister and I made the team. I was so happy. ***I didn't think I had it in me.***"
- Montana Kitchen

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tingent on the ED&N squad at the NAIG, held across the Greater Toronto Area July 16-23.

The team struggled against some stiff competition in the early going, however. The ED&N women opened with a punishing 110-15 loss to an Alberta squad that would go on to claim the silver medal at the competition.

Things got no easier for the ED&N ladies in lopsided losses to British Columbia and Wisconsin, which captured the bronze medal. But the squad finished strong in its final outing of the Games while dropping a heartbreaking 35-32 decision to Nova Scotia.

Despite the challenges, the NAIG experience was a good one for Montana, both for her development as an athlete and on a personal level, providing her with a healthy boost of confidence on and off the court.

With the fall/winter basketball season fast approaching, Montana is eager to continue bringing her game to new levels. She is also placing increased emphasis on education as she seeks to pick up the adult education credits she needs to complete her GED and later attend college.

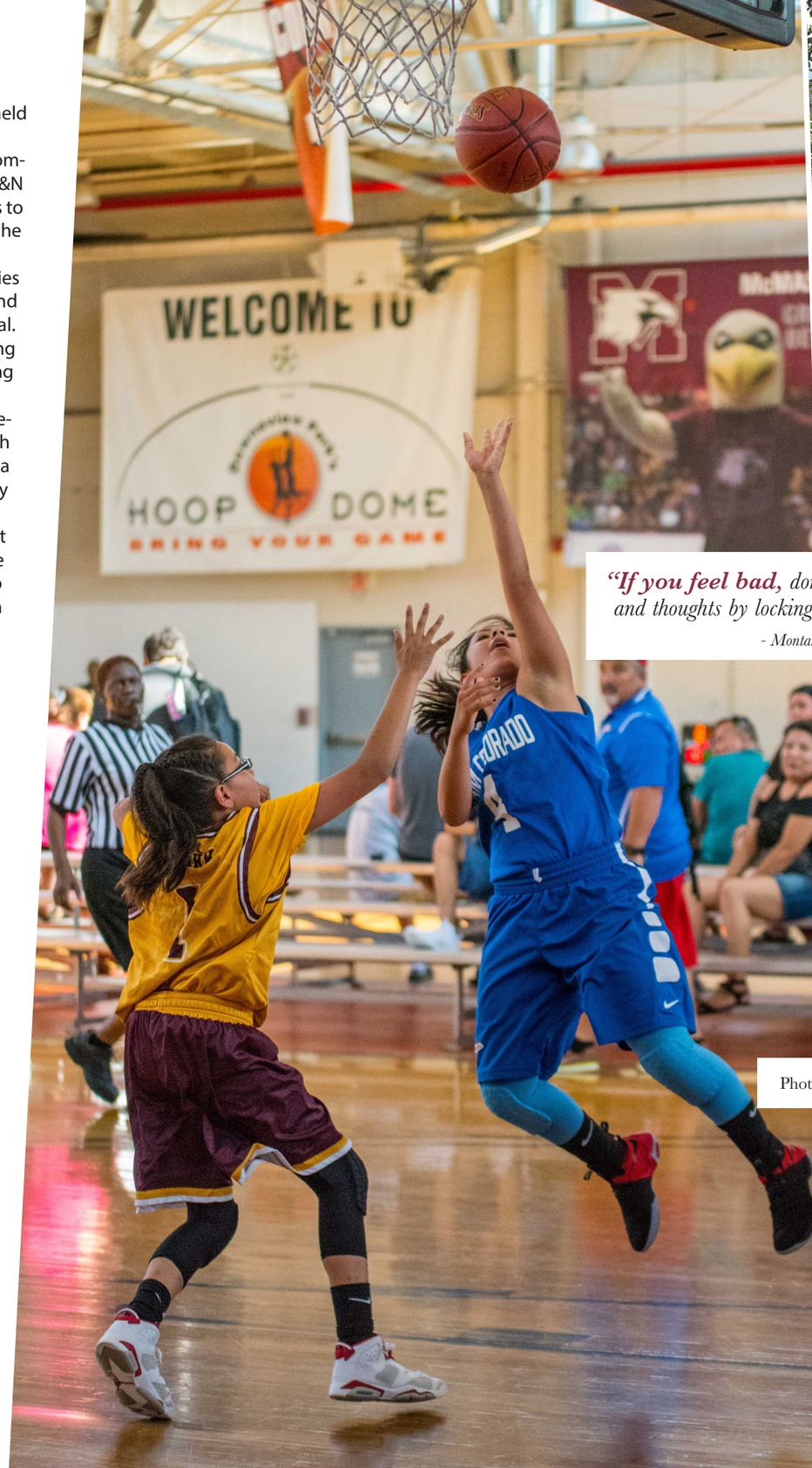
Perhaps more important is sharing the story of the struggles she has had with mental illness, and helping other young people who are burdened with this often misunderstood condition.

"Playing basketball has been important to my ongoing recovery. It helps to get things out of my mind, relieve stress, and improve my mood," said Montana.

Montana's comments echo numerous research reports that have found active participation in sports can help relieve the symptoms of depression. But Montana is also eager to share her experience with other young people suffering from depression, who may be unsure of where to turn.

"Accept the help that is given to you," urges Montana. "Stay around the people who you trust, and the people who love and care for you. Keep yourself busy and try new things. It's good to try to accomplish something in a day, whether it's doing the dishes or going for a walk.

"If you feel bad, don't be alone in those feelings and thoughts by locking yourself in your room. And most importantly, don't forget to take care of yourself."



"If you feel bad, don't be alone in those feelings and thoughts by locking yourself in your room"

- Montana Kitchen

Photos provided by NAIG except top right by Herodier Snowboy

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July 11-12, 2017	Whapmagoostui First Nation	Whapmagoostui Sports Complex	6:30 – 9:30pm
Postponed	Cree Nation of Nemaska	Recreation Hall	TBD
September 19-20, 2017	**Cree Nation of Chisasibi**	**Mitchuap Auditorium**	**6:30 – 9:30pm**
October 17-18, 2017	Cree Nation of Waswanipi	*To be confirmed	TBD
November 14-15, 2017	Cree Nation of Wemindji	*To be confirmed	TBD
December 12-13, 2017	Waskaganish First Nation	Kanio Kashee Lodge	6:30 – 9:30pm
January 16-17, 2018	Cree Nation of Eastmain	*To be confirmed	TBD
February 20-21, 2018	Washaw Sibi	*To be confirmed	TBD
March 20-21, 2018	Cree Nation of Mistissini	*To be confirmed	TBD

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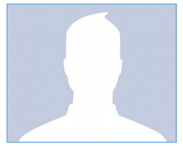

Say **no**

Letter to the Editor by Anonymous

Letter

The recent incidences of drug overdoses in our communities have hopefully awoken some real thinking on how we, as a Nation, should be dealing with the scourge that affects many across this country.

We need to teach everyone that we will no longer tolerate them selling or spreading the poisons to our youth and our Nation. We are the ones to help build that immunity so our young may realize that there are other ways to see life, where they won't need those substances to have a fulfilling and rewarding life. We are the ones to show them the road to a better life where they can see that growing up is more than experimenting with drugs and alcohol, that there are better ways to see that they can grow up where their own children will no longer become a part of the victims of today. Where the circle of intergenerational trauma is defeated and put to rest. Where we will wake up one day and say, we are a Nation of healthy people who do not accept the scourge of drugs and alcohol abuse in our lives and our communities.

We are better than that, it's in all of us that we have real teachings that have been passed on to us, where we will one day see that our strength to teach our real ways will save our children for tomorrow.

The victims are **all of us**

We are not immune to anything that comes along in our modern way of living, and drugs are present in all our communities. We can never blame others for those drugs coming into our communities and our lives, because our own people decided for themselves to bring them for their own use, or to sell to others who wanted to take them.

The victims are all of us, because we are the ones who are hurting out of all that has happened. We are the ones who grieve and mourn our people who left us too early. There is nothing we can do now but to say, "No more!"

We have to say "no more" to those who sell to our youth and our people. We have to say "no" to those who are untouchable by people who may know something or are customers for their wares. We are the people who can do something about what is happening in each of our communities, our schools, our street corners, our houses. We are the ones who can say "no" to those who continue to sell those poisons, and help them too, to recover and learn that they can't do this anymore.

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PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversees the implementation, administration and day-to-day operations and services of the CTA. Ensures implementation of all agreements entered into by the CTA.
- Provides leadership and vision to the CTA by assisting the Executive Committee and Board of Directors with the development of long-term and annual objectives and plans.
- Identifies, drafts, coordinates, and implements human resources programs and policies, administrative policies and procedures required to ensure sound management of the CTA or as requested by the Executive Committee or Board o Directors, and ensures these policies and procedures are respected.
- Advises and consults with the Board of Directors and Executive Committee on all matters of policy and practice affecting the CTA.
- Provides quarterly reports to the Executive Committee on organizational objectives and plans. Participates in all meetings, conferences, and seminars as requested by the Executive Committee.
- In collaboration with the Secretary-Treasurer, is actively involved in the preparation of the annual CTA budget(s), including the proposed strategic directions, and projections for human and financial resources for approval by the Executive Committee and subsequently by the Board of Directors.
- Ensures that all budgets are administered according to established provisions, terms, regulations, and conditions.
- Prepares and presents to the Executive Committee the CTA Annual Report and 5-year plan.
- Oversees the drafting and implementation of supervisory agreements with Local Cree Trappers Committees and First Nations representatives.
- In consultation with First Nations governments, and/or Local Cree Trappers' Committees, participates in the selection, orientation, and training and performance evaluation of Local Fur Officers.
- Directly supervises and manages all non-Officer staff of the CTA, except financial support staff.
- In conjunction with the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, develops global objectives for the CTA. Assists direct reports with development of objectives and ensures that performance is aligned with team and individual objectives. Ensures that supervisors within team are establishing objectives that are inalignment with departmental objectives.
- Identifies training needs and supports training and development.
- Conducts periodic performance evaluations for direct reports and assists supervisors with performance evaluations.
- Promotes CTA values, strategies and objectives and on-going, effective and open communication with employees. Keeps regular contact and informs staff members of all Cree communities of decisions that impact them and/or their department.
- Liaises on an ongoing basis with the CNG and the Local Cree Trappers' Committees in the communities, as well as other Cree entities and government agencies and departments to build and maintain constructive and cooperative relations. Position will be located at the head office of the CTA in Eastmain, Eeyou Istchee. The salary will commensurate according to the qualifications & experience of the candidate.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in Administration or related field.
- In-depth knowledge of the Cree culture and way of life.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in management (personnel & planning).
- Cree and English and possess effective writing skills in English. Ability to speak and write in French constitutes an important asset.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel.
- Strong leadership skills.
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- Excellent organizational skills and the willingness and ability to assume and coordinate multiple directives and tasks.
- High standards of ethics and confidentiality in dealing with sensitive matters.
- Strong management and negotiation skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Willingness to travel regularly and be away from home outside normal working hours.
- Financial and Accounting knowledge.
- Valid driver's license.

Deadline: Tuesday September 12, 2017 at 5pm.

Only candidates retained for interviews will be contacted.

Please send your application and curriculum to: Allan House, CTA Secretary/Treasurer

Email: allanhouse@ctaoffice.ca Fax: (819) 977-2168 P.O. BOX 250, Eastmain, QC J0M 1W0

Summer **report card**

by Sonny Orr

Rez Notes

It's been an active summer. All kinds of events have occupied our weekends and long holidays throughout our communities and this is all good. I got in a few feasts and weddings, voted in an election and briefly showed my face here and there.

It's nice knowing that a nation can have some fun and its people can take their minds off what lays ahead for our new leadership to tackle. In many ways, I'm glad that things are turning out the way they are. Potholes and mouldy homes are soon to be a thing of the past.

Aside from that, dodging tornados, evading wildfires and witnessing a solar eclipse makes Mother Nature the all-time entertainer. There's nothing like seeing hail pound down on your windshield and black clouds emitting lightning and rain which create impassible currents on highway, then minutes later emerging into the sunlight and rainbow-filled skies. This eternal battle with the elements comes to a glorious end. And that, my friends, is exciting.

Thousands of years ago, a solar eclipse elicited a different tone. If fact, the Aztecs had a gory way of celebrating solar eclipses with human sacrifices, tearing out hearts and throwing them into a bloody heap atop a sacrificial pyramid. They would sacrifice mainly their prisoners of war, who were kept for this very occasion. Although there many reasons for human sacrifice – for example, to guarantee a good crop or to appease an angry god – these days it's frowned upon and weather forecasters do a fine job of telling us when it's going to rain on our crops.

The world didn't end in any apocalyptic fashion and the eclipse, forever burned into our retinas, didn't caused mass panic.

Up north, on the sparse forests of the taiga, the rainfalls don't come as often as they should, and wildfires cause concerns for nearby communities. But for many, the fires create new growth, especially for berries, which should be ripe for harvest just about now. So, back to this summer – it was a good one, except that it didn't get hot enough to hang out at the beach. That was the only bummer this year.

Like the summer ending with a smooth transition to fall, so do our habits of summer fun. In exchange, we get to harvest the land and hang out with the fattening bears and marauding wolves. It's fun, hanging out on the land, but when the dollar starts getting slim, social housing sounds good enough for me. Housing being a priority for our new leadership, well, it would be nice to get housing built to last long enough to foster a long-term healthy family.

Back to school is a time for change for many of our children. They will have to be prepared to run things soon, as many of our Elders are now former leaders, the ones who built the foundation we stand on as a nation. It's something that I am proud of, to be someone who took part in our change from the early years and help in the growth of our nation. I hope my children and their children will continue being positive contributors to our growth. I'm writing like this because I'm hearing a lot of good talk from our regular broadcasts of our meeting in progress. At times, it seems like I'm listening to CPAC – but in Cree.

The world didn't end in any apocalyptic fashion and the eclipse, forever burned into our retinas, didn't caused mass panic. That is, except for overheating servers around the globe and almost causing Facebook to melt down. Overall, the summer of 2017 was a good one.

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Under the Northern Sky

Ghost towns

by Xavier Kataquapit

I recall a trip by snowmobile a few years ago with my dad Marius Kataquapit and my brothers. We were on an excursion to visit a couple of legendary ghost towns up the coast about 160 kilometres north of Attawapiskat.

It was only about 30° below zero when we headed out from home to follow the frozen coastline of the great James Bay on our snowmobiles. However, 30° below, riding along at 70 kilometres an hour over the frozen muskeg was almost unbearable. There were three snowmobiles on this run up the coast and for good reason. You don't want to be alone and stranded if your snow machine breaks down in the freezing cold, hours from home.

As we sliced through the frosty air, the hours slipped by painfully slow, even though we stopped often to warm up with a drink from our thermos of tea. Out on James Bay, this far north, only the seasoned hunter or trapper knows his way around. Everything looked the same as we made our way along the frozen coastline. Marius led us on with his vast knowledge of this land that seemed at times to be mirrored and had no obvious landmarks. If I had been on this trip myself, I would have been lost.

We finally arrived at what was left of an abandoned Hudson Bay trading post at Lakitusaki River. It was a trip back in time to visit this spot, on the river that was once a major fur trading point on James Bay. The old wooden church and the deteriorating Hudson Bay store were still standing and provided a hint of what was once a thriving operation in the days of the fur trade. We were happy to bed down for the night in the weathered but still comfortable haven of the Bay store. We dragged in a make-do, 45-gallon drum stove, rigged up a chimney, started a fire and spent a comfortable night protected from the elements.

The next day we headed north again to a more recently abandoned place a few hours up the coast. The treeline disappeared on this part of the journey as we entered into the tundra. The weather had taken a turn for the worse and we knew by instinct that the temperature had slipped to about 50° below zero. The wind had picked up and swept across the tundra and the frozen bay. It seemed as though we were riding through a foggy mist of white, with patches of dark blue sky visible from inside the whirling snow that seemed unending.

> I felt as though I was visiting the remnants of some mighty, lost civilization that had passed into oblivion.

Finally, we saw the hint of something up ahead and soon after we arrived at Site 415, the abandoned military base that was part of the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning Line) during the Cold War. Aptly named, since it was dangerously cold here.

It was strange to walk through this ghost village, built in the middle of nowhere, in the midst of the tundra. Standing quiet in the heart of the complex, I imagined the hundreds of military personnel going about their business in their offices, barracks and maintenance garages.

Four radar dishes still towered six stories over the complex. I saw several vehicles that had been left here to rot as Mother Earth slowly reclaimed her place. It was sobering indeed to see this place; it was as though we had traveled to the end of the world. I felt as though I was visiting the remnants of some mighty, lost civilization that had passed into oblivion.

A thought flashed through my mind that this sight before me was a foreshadowing of things to come. I thought of the strength of my people and our ability to adapt and survive in the worst of situations. It dawned on me, that no matter what technology we produce, if we do not take care of our Mother Earth and be good to each other then some day, perhaps one of my people in the future will come across remnants of who we were, in much the same way I did at the old Hudson Bay post and Site 415.

CREE TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION "EST" 1978

Congratulations
to the newly appointed executive board members!

Fred L. Tomatuk, CTA President elected.
Joshua Isheroff, Vice-president appointed.
Anna Bosum, Executive board member appointed.

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TOGETHER
FOR SAFER
AND ENGAGED
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